

**Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403**



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
September 14, 2015
REVISED MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Members Present: First Selectman Chris Bielik, Selectman Peter Betkoski, and Selectman Dominick Sorrentino

Others present: John Smith, Chairman of Inland Wetlands; Mike Krenesky; Town Treasurer; Gary Komarowsky; Luke Marshall, Citizens News; and 8 members of the public.

2. Comments from the Public

C. Bielik asked if there were any comments from the public. Mary Ann Fernandes, 31 South Circle, indicated that she was at the meeting to discuss the access way at Region 16's property on the top of Rimmon Hill. There are now signs that restrict the use of the public access way to certain days and times. She has a copy of the deed which does not show restrictions of time or day. According to the deed as recorded in the town records, it does not show the time and day restrictions.

C. Bielik noted that Pat Hinman stopped by the office with pictures of the signs and he forwarded those pictures to the town Land Use Attorney, Atty. Steve Byrne. C. Bielik also noted that he has not received a response back as far as Region 16 placing restrictions on our easement legally. M. Fernandes expressed her frustration on the time frame of this situation. She indicated that it has been going on for 2 years and they have been making concessions that they don't have to do but are doing them to be nice. She indicated that they feel bullied by the Board of Education and would like the process speed up.

Pat Hinman, 387 Burton Road, indicated that she rides for physical and mental therapy. The rights go back to 1938 and she indicated that she has heard rumors about a fence being put up to make them obey the signs. C. Bielik indicated that they cannot stop them from putting a fence up but can take action to have it taken down. He also indicated that they will protect the rights of the town and will continue to pursue this. They want to work out an amicable solution with Region 16.

Shirley Vicchitto, 28 Lopus Road Ext., indicated that her husband and she are members of the CT Horse Counsel. They do volunteer horse patrol through Matthies Park and up to the reservoir area. They will help to trim branches and help to keep the trail clean. She indicated that if the town needs help, the CT Horse Counsel is available to help the town in this matter.

Susan Cable, 196 Blackberry Hill, indicated that she has a few comments. She indicated that she is in support of the riders and reminded everyone that the high school is allowed to use Matthies Park for activities. Secondly, the Wolfe Avenue house should be taken down. It is a burden on the town and long overdue. It can be sold and the property could be used for something else. Finally, she has been approached by several people about the problem in getting into St. Michael's Church. The request is to have some parking spaces during mass time marked for handicapped individuals.

Greg Campbell, 29 Terese Road, was asking the Board for documentation/statutes/law/ordinance showing that he must pay his neighbor for the sewer line whatever cost he wants. P. Betkoski asked G. Campbell for the cost that the neighbor is asking for from him and G. Campbell did not know. C. Campbell indicated that he had no knowledge or notice that this was going to happen. C. Bielik noted that they have discussed this subject before with him, and C. Bielik indicated that he has reached out to the Chairman of the WPCA as well as the town attorney for this documentation. He reminded C. Campbell that this was an emergency situation and the neighbor was acting under duress. C. Bielik indicated that since the town sewer line ended short of G. Campbell's house as well as of the neighbor's house, the neighbor was required to bare the expense of laying the entire line. G. Campbell was given the opportunity to tie in to the sewer line at that time and the decision was not to do that at that time. The town has not accepted the sewer line so it is not a town sewer line; it is considered a private line. C. Bielik has not heard back from the town attorney or from the Chairman of the WPCA and will try to expedite it.

John Smith, Bethany Road, noted that when the plans for the church were laid out, there were three handicapped parking spaces that were looked at being done but were not done.

C. Bielik asked three times if there were any public comment and there were none at this time.

3. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

The three members reviewed the minutes from the one meeting held in August 10, 2015.

Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting held on August 10, 2015 as submitted for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

There is a required correction to the Special Town meeting minutes held on July 6, 2015. The wording must be corrected in order to market the band. This statement will make the minutes technically correct – “In the absence of objection, the reading of the full text of the resolution into the minutes was waived, copies of the resolution having been made available to those in attendance”. A copy of the wording has been given to the clerk for the correction to be made.

Motion to revise the minutes from the Special Town Meeting held on July 6, 2015 with the added statement inserted as noted above: Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

4. Resident Trooper/Police Report

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Resident Trooper/State Police for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

5. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Wastewater Treatment Plant for tonight's meeting: Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

6. Report of Public Works

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Public Works for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

7. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Fire Marshall for tonight's meeting: Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

8. Report of the Finance Manager

The Finance Manager was not present at tonight's meeting.

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Finance Manager for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their next meeting:
Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

9. Report of the Tax Collector

The Tax Collector was not present at tonight's meeting.

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Tax Collector for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their next meeting: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

10. Report of the Town Treasurer

The Town Treasurer was present at tonight's meeting.

M. Krenesky indicated that both the IRS and the DRS are set up for the payroll taxes to be filed and paid on-line. The 3rd quarter will still be made through Union Bank but the 4th quarter will be made using the on-line services.

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Town Treasurer for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their next meeting: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

11. Report of the Town Clerk

Motions to accept the monthly report and yearly report as submitted by the Town Clerk for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their next meeting: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

12. Report of the Library

Sue Dowdell was not present at tonight's meeting. C. Bielik noted that this is the first time that he remembers that the Library Director was not present at a meeting. C. Bielik indicated that there is a change to the second paragraph of the report. Carine Greene had submitted her resignation but was never accepted by the Selectmen. She has reconsidered and would like to remain in the position at the library. C. Bielik indicated that the resignation letter has been withdrawn.

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Library for tonight's meeting:
Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

13. Report of the Fire Department

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Fire Department for tonight's meeting:
Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

C. Bielik wanted to pass along a big shout-out to the Fire Department, Rotary Club, The Lions, The Lioness, and the Friends of Rotary in their combined efforts in doing a fundraiser for the proprietor of New Harvest, Gang Guo.

14. Any Other Reports

a. Report of the Custodian

C. Bielik indicated that the custodian did not submit a report since he is on vacation.

b. Report of the Town Nurse

There was no report from the Town Nurse submitted for tonight's meeting. It is a quarterly report and the next report is due September 30, 2015.

c. Report of the Animal Control Officer

There was no report from the Animal Control Officer submitted for tonight's meeting.

15. Correspondence

1. An email from Chief Trzaski was received informing every one of the annual State of CT Volunteer Fire Department Convention in conjunction with Seymour. Beacon Falls is hosting the parade on Sunday, September 20th, starting at 12:00 P.M. C. Bielik will be making a Code Red phone call to the residents informing them of the event in order to make preparations for the road detours.

2. A notice regarding Beacon Hose annual family and member appreciation picnic on Sunday, September 27th, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Please RSVP to Gretchen.

3. A request from the Tax Collector to approval tax rebates that have been validated by her. The total amount to be approved is \$2,060.22. A copy of the list of names and amounts was provided to the clerk for the minutes.

Motion to approve the tax rebates totaling \$2,060.22 to the following list of names and pass the information to the Board of Finance –

USB Leasing for \$321.37
Lee Hennessey, Jr. for \$28.72
Raul Robledo for \$71.51
Joseph LaRovera for \$192.40
Donna P. Morrow for \$13.72
Francis M. Markey, Sr. for \$15.84
Vault Trust – Ally Financial Inc. for \$1,207.11
Acar Leasing LTD for \$123.31
UTZ Quality Foods Inc. for \$86.24

Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

4. A letter from Region 16 was received inviting them to the ribbon cutting ceremony at Laurel Ledge School on Tuesday, September 14th, at 6:00 P.M. Refreshments and hot dogs will be served.

5. Three letters from Pullman & Conley Attorneys that represent the CT Energy and Technology Development group was received. One letter stated that they submitted on August 31st the package to the state citing counsel for their review and decision on the fuel cell energy park. The other two letters was from the CT citing counsel indicating that they received the package and that they will be getting the package.

6. A letter from Valley Women Health Initiative regarding the annual luncheon on Thursday, October 1st, at Villa Bianco. Officer Caroline Obar will be one of the awardees.

7. A letter from Robinson & Cole was received in regards to work being done in town on utility poles, making new attachments on them for Verizon Wireless.

8. A letter from Patricia Caldwell, a member of the Library Board of Trustees, was received announcing her resignation to the Board due to personal reasons.

9. A letter from John Bratt, 4 Dogwood Lane, was received regarding the fuel cell energy park. He noted the company is the one who produced the clean energy plant built in Middletown and the agreement was based on estimates. When the actual numbers came in, they were higher than the estimates.

10. An invoice from the clerk in the amount of \$72.50 was submitted for the meeting held on August 10, 2015.

Motion to approve and pay the invoice from the clerk in the amount of \$72.50 as submitted: **Betkoski/Sorrentino**; no discussion; all ayes.

16. Old Business

a. Fuel Cell Project – Update

C. Bielik noted that there will be a hearing one in Hartford and one in Beacon Falls.

b. Open Space Fund Ordinance – Discussion

C. Bielik noted that nothing has been heard on this so there is no update.

c. Beacon Falls EDC Forum – at Chatfield Farms – Discussion

C. Bielik noted that there is an open house on what Beacon Falls is like at Chatfield Farms. It will be on Thursday, September 17th, from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM. This was done last year as well and was done by the EDC and the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce.

d. Jenny Lane Two (Oxford) – Discussion

C. Bielik introduced John Smith, Chairman of the Inland Wetlands Commission, to present the information to the Board on the situation on Jenny Lane Two, Oxford.

J. Smith indicated that the town of Oxford contacted him about a potential problem from property in Oxford and the homeowner dumping fill in the back of his property. The fill is going down the back of his property and going into property in Matthies Park, which is owned by Beacon Falls. The town of Oxford is looking for a recommendation as to how to handle this situation since the fill is eroded into property owned by Beacon Falls. J. Smith noted that IWWC is referring the situation to the Board of Selectmen since the property is Matthies Park is actually that of Park & Rec.

The dumping has been going on for about two years now and is quite a large amount of fill. Dave Keating prepared a list of suggestions of what could be done. J. Smith mentioned that the town of Oxford is not taking any action at this time until they hear from the town of Beacon Falls. J. Smith did ask the town engineer to inform Oxford that the embankment needs to be stabilized, the silt coming off of the bank needs to be cleaned up, and the silt to be removed to avoid further erosion. It will be a huge undertaking if the decision is to go in and remove the entire amount of fill. There could be more damage if equipment goes into the area to remove the fill.

C. Bielik thanked J. Smith for getting the information together and the Selectmen will take a look at the situation, talk to the attorney, and make a recommendation to the town of Oxford.

e. Community School Appraisal

Beacon Falls received the appraisal on Community School in the amount of \$1,510,000.00. This is north of the amount reached by the appraiser engaged by Region 16. Prospect has not published their amount. Superintendent Yamin's intention is to get the sale going.

17. New Business

a. Open Space Fund Ordinance – Discussion

C. Bielik noted that agenda item is listed under New Business in error.

b. Burton Road – Heat In Place Contract Award

C. Bielik noted that the Board will be postponing action on this agenda item to a future date.

c. Burton Road – Drainage Contract Award

C. Bielik noted that there were 4 bids received and were reviewed by Nafis & Young. They determined that all the bids were correct mathematically and the recommendation is for Forest Construction Co., LLC is the amount of \$414,850.00.

Motion to approve the recommendation made by Nafis & Young and award the contract for the drainage contract on Burton Road to Forest Construction Co., LLC in the amount of \$414,850.00: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

d. Old Mini Bus Disposal – Discussion

After a brief discussion by the Board, it was determined that they will try to sell the old mini bus.

Motion to sell the old mini bus: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

e. Murtha Industrial Park Project/Consultant - Discussion

Harold Murtha approached the Board of Selectmen with some information on a potential expansion for one of the tenants in the Murtha Industrial Park. Thule is looking to expand their operations and this would cause H. Murtha to expand the industrial park. He is looking for some assistance on building out his property. Jack Betkoski, Chairman of the EDC, was informed and his recommendation is to question the town attorney. Atty. Stanek indicated that this is not his area of expertise and is recommending Alexander Carpp for the position of reviewing and researching the statutes and programs of assistance.

Motion to hire Alexander Carpp at an hourly rate of \$50.00 to research and review the expansion of the Murtha Industrial Park for the expansion of Thule:
Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

18. Appointment

C. Bielik noted that at the time of appointment of Don Ferretti to parks & Rec, D. Ferretti was not a registered voter and cannot be appointed to the position. Since that time, D. Ferretti has become a registered voter and can now be appointed.

Motion to appoint Don Ferretti to the open position on the Parks & Rec:
Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

19. Budget Transfer Requests

There was a budget transfer request from the Road Foreman for \$16,000.00 to be transferred from Curb Replacement to Tree Work. This transfer will come under the 2014-2015 Budget Year.

Motion to approve the budget transfer of \$16,000.00 from Curb Replacement, Budget Line Item 10.90.90.2134 to Tree Work, Budget Line Item 10.90.59.1714 and pass this request along to the Board of Finance. The request will come under the Budget Year of 2014-2015: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

20. Comments from the Public

C. Bielik asked three times if there were any further public comments and there were none.

21. Executive Session – If Needed

The Board of Selectmen entered into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 8:54 P.M. and exited Executive Session at 9:08 P.M.

22. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, C. Bielik asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting at 9:08 P.M.:
Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen